

REMARKS

Acceptance/formal entry therefor of this amendment, which, applicant submits, renders the application allowable, is respectfully requested. Supportive discussion follows.

The status of the claims are as noted hereinabove. Specifically, base claim 1 was canceled and the base intervening claim 2 was re-presented in an independent claimed format, incorporating the subject matter of the now canceled claim 1. Previously withdrawn claims 12-20 were also canceled, but, however, applicants reserve the right to subsequently file a continuing application directed thereto.

As to the outstanding rejection of original claim 1, under 35 USC §102(b), it has been rendered moot with the canceling thereof. It is submitted, however, agreeing to the canceling of claim 1 should not be construed as an acquiescence with regard to the merits of the art rejection directed thereto. Rather, the canceling of this claim was effected in consideration of applicants receiving an early formal notification of allowability with regard to the present application.

A rejection was also made of base claim 1 and, therefore, also with regard to the corresponding dependent claims thereof under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for the reasons detailed on page 2 of the outstanding action. The matter raised by the Examiner was carefully reviewed; however, applicants accordingly traverse the same for the reasons as will now be explained. With regard to the "semiconductor circuit" according to original claim 1, which is now contained in independent claim 2, the example embodiment shown in Fig. 5 is particularly related thereto, although not limited thereto. With regard to this, attached hereto is **Sketch A** which is one example showing of how the Fig. 5 embodiment of the present application relates to the present claimed subject matter. As can be seen from **Sketch A**, the combination of inverter I4 and boosting capacitor CB6 relates to the

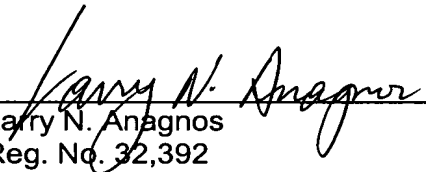
set forth "fourth charge pump circuit" and the inverting circuit I3 and boosting capacitor CB5, together, comprise the set forth "third charge pump circuit" of the invention. The signal outputted by the "fourth charge pump circuit", which is at node N6 of Fig. 5, has high and low levels which are the same as that of the signal outputted by the set forth "third charge pump circuit", at node N5 of Fig. 5. From the operational diagrams shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings, which relate to the Fig. 5 embodiments, the signal of node N6 (which is likewise also for node N5) varies between VDD and 2VDD. It therefor can be said that "the high level of the fourth signal, outputted from the fourth charge pump circuit (e.g., at node N6), is equal to the high level of the third signal outputted from the third charge pump circuit (e.g., at node N5), consistent with that set forth at the end of original claim 1, which is now contained in amended claim 2. For the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under §112, second paragraph, insofar as presently applicable, is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that dependent claims 2-11 are directed to allowable subject matter and that these claims would be formally allowed upon being re-presented in an appropriate self-contained format. (Page 3, the second paragraph, in the detailed action.) Accordingly, for the reasons that these claims are allowable, applicants have decided, at this time, to cancel rejected claim 1 and to re-present claims 2-11 in an appropriate self-contained format, thereby rendering them allowable. With regard to this, the previously pending base intervening claim 2 was re-presented in an appropriate independent claim format, incorporating the subject matter of the now canceled claim 1. Since dependent claims 3-11, either directly or through one or more intervening claims, have as a basis claim 2, these claims have also now been rendered allowable, noting that all outstanding issues, applicants submit, have been obviated.

Therefore, in view of the amendments presented hereinabove together with these accompanying remarks, favorable action on the presently pending claims, i.e., claims 2-11, and an early formal notification of allowability of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (501.38519CC2), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Larry N. Anagnos
Reg. No. 32,392

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703-312-6600
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